

BRIDGET MACDONALD

Macdonald has developed a body of work over the years in which she blends observed reality with autobiographical, literary and art historical references. The classical literary concept of the pastoral interests her and provides a framework for her ongoing explorations of rural life. She comes from a farming family on the Isle of Wight, and now lives in the Malvern Hills where the landscape conforms to the pastoral ideal of hills, rivers, farms and orchards.

Bull in a Flowering Meadow is a drawing of a bull owned by her grandfather in the 1930s. The only source for the image is a tiny photograph taken by her mother with a Box Brownie but Macdonald has transformed him into a mythical beast – obliquely referring to the myth of Europa, when Zeus changed himself into a beautiful bull who tempted Europa as she gathered flowers beside the sea.

Crows in the September Orchard is an evocation of the orchard in Herefordshire which is very much a part of her life. Starting from the sight of the trees laden with golden apples on a misty September morning, she aimed to create more than a straightforward view. There are echoes and connections, particularly a memory of the orchard frescoes in the Villa of Livia in Rome where birds and fruit trees create a feeling of paradise.

Frosted Field Maple and *Newtown Bird Hide* are more direct descriptions of places she loves. The field maple tree seen in a January frost is near her orchard. Newtown Bird Hide is in the bird sanctuary at the Newtown River on the Isle of Wight. The ink drawings are of the Worcester Beacon, highest point of the Malvern Hills.

Born in 1943 on the Isle of Wight, Bridget Macdonald trained in Fine Art from 1983 to 1987. Since then she has built up a career which has been marked by major solo exhibitions in public galleries including Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Worcester City Art Gallery and Quay Arts on the Isle of Wight. A significant exhibition took place at Worcester City Art Gallery in 2016 when her work was hung in the company of drawings, prints and paintings by Claude Lorrain and Samuel Palmer, borrowed from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and Manchester City Art Gallery.

Her work is represented in the permanent collections of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Worcester City Art Gallery and the House of Lords at 1 Millbank. She has shown regularly with Art First since its inception.

For further enquiries please contact Clare Cooper: clare@artfirst.co.uk

To find out more about Macdonald's work and her exhibition history please visit www.artfirst.co.uk



The Worcester Beacon, 2021
Sepia/Indian ink on paper, 23 x 25.5cm, £650



Bull in a Flowering Meadow, 2015
Charcoal on paper, 127 x 153cm, £7,500

ART FIRST

Art First, The Forge, 15 St. Mary's Walk, London, SE11 4UA

E: clare@artfirst.co.uk | T: +44 (0) 7711 945098 | I: [@artfirstlondon](https://www.instagram.com/artfirstlondon) www.artfirst.co.uk



Crows in the September Orchard, 2019
Oil on linen, 76.2 x 101.6cm, £5,500

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Frosted Field Maple, 2021
Oil on linen, 30 x 25cm, £1,750

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Newtown Birdhyde, 2022
Oil on linen, 30 x 30cm, £1,950

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The Worcester Beacon from Cradley, 2021
Sepia/Indian ink on paper, 23 x 25.5cm, £650

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